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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

50X1-HUM

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REPORT NO.

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SOURCE

Newspapers as indicated.

NOTES RETURN OF PWs; POLICE SUPPRESS WESTERN PAPERS

1,200 PWs RETURN TO HUNGARY -- Munich, Hungaria, 19 Jan 51

The first PWs to be returned to Hungary in 2 years arrived in December. The number of PWs repatriated so far is 1,200. Contrary to forcer practice, most of the ex-soldiers were interned and those physically able were sent to work in coal mines. Only 10 of the PWs have been released, and those still interned are cut off entirely from the outer world.

According to some reports, Rakosi instituted action for the return of the prisoners because, as a result of the publication by Hungaria of the Hungarian White Book, a large number of letters were sent to the Communist Party, asking the party's intervention in behalf of the prisoners. The mail censoring bureau also ascertained that the number of letters mailed to Germany suddenly increased, and relatives of thousands of prisoners were asking friends abroad for news of prisoners of war held in the USSR.

Another source reports that most of the prisoners recently returned are from the Kiev 7060/4 camp. The return of these PWs lends support to the contention that there are still more than 100,000 Hungarian prisoners being held in the USSR.

PAPERS RUMORED PARACHUTED TO HUNGARY -- Munich, Hungaria, 12 Jan 51

The number of food-control raids by the Trade Police has been increased during the past few weeks. Though the purpose of these raids is the suppression of hoarding, the Trade Police are accompanied by State Security Authority detectives who inspect personal letters, newspapers, and periodicals. A family in whose house an emigre newspaper was found, was arrested and moved to another area.

These raids are allegedly connected with the increased number of Western newspapers which have found their way across the Hungarian border. The fantastic rumor is also circulating in Hungary that the Polish resistance movement is secretly parachuting these in spapers onto Hungarian soil.

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OPEN NEW INTERNMENT CAMPS -- Rome, Bolletino Danubiano, 14 Nov 50

New internment camps were opened last summer at Recsk, near Parad, Heves County; Bortobagy, where the prisoners are compelled to work at farms and at a canalization project; Fegyvernek, Szolnok County; Kaposfured, Somogy County; and Szombathely, because the notorious "torture chambers" at Buda-Del, Kistarcsa, Satoraljaujhely, and of Marko-Ucca and Stalin-Ut in Budapest, were no longer sufficient to house new prisoners arrested by the political and economic police.

The Hungarian prisons and other penal institutions are taxed beyond capacity, according to Hungarian refugees. Ten to thirty prisoners are crowded into a cell in which they can, at best, sit down on the floor but have not enough room to stand up. In each cell there is a single chamber pot which is emptied once a day. The daily fare consists of two bowls of vegetable soup and two slices of bread.

Reportedly, 300,000 persons were interned, sentenced to prison, or deported to unknown destinations in Hungary during 1949-50. The reason for arrest was usually political disloyalty or anti-democratic conduct.

GREEK PARTISAN VILLAGE BUILT -- Munich, Hungaria, 15 Dec 50

Construction of a village was begun last spring at a location between Pusztaszabolcs and Szabadegyhaza (formerly Szolgaegyhaza), a few hundred meters away from the Dombovar railroad line in the direction of the Danube. To the surprise of the local inhabitants, the village was occupied by exiled Greek partisans. The majority of the Greeks are men, whose only occupation is participation in military and political instruction. The entire town has a military character. Women and youths work in the Ercsi sugar factory.

GRADE SCHOOLS FIGHT STUDENT LOSS -- Budapest, Nepszava, 12 Jan 51

Despite the law of compulsory education, only 40 to 45 percent of the children complete the eighth grade of the general school in Hungary. This figure represents a signal advance compared with 1930, when only 17 percent of the children graduated from the eighth grade. However, under the law, as well as under a party resolution, all children will be required to complete the eighth grade of the general school by the end of the Five-Year Plan.

To achieve this goal, all attempts to keep the children, even for short periods, out of school must be opposed vigorously. In many cities and towns children of school age are employed in industrial plants, in cotton picking, in vintage, or in the producers' cooperatives. -- Sandor Szabo, chief, Division of Grade Schools, Hungarian Ministry of Education

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